



Lakeside School
Lakeside Union School District

14535 Old River Road
Bakersfield, California 93311-9756
Mike McGrath, Assistant Superintendent/Principal
(661) 831-3503 Fax (661) 831-7709
www.lakesideusd.org

September 2016

Dear Parents of 7th and 8th Grade Students:

Hello everyone. I hope you're as excited as I am about what lies ahead for us in the coming year. Each school year brings anticipation, excitement, and with some, anxiety of what the new school year may bring. As we begin this school year I wish the greatest success for all our students.

That being said, I would like to inform you of our new 8th Grade Graduation Criteria starting this school year, 2016/2017. As Assistant Superintendent/Principal, I have an opportunity to evaluate policies that impact our students. For the purpose of continuous school improvement, the school and district regularly reach out to parents and staff members for recommendations for improvement. After initial conversations were held, administration took steps to investigate the benefit of changing the 8th Grade minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) Graduation Requirement. After review and discussion, the decision was made to incrementally increase the 8th Grade Graduation GPA Requirement from 1.5 to 2.0 over the next two years, as shown below.

8th Grade GPA Graduation Requirement

Last Year		Current Year		Next Year	
2015/2016		2016/2017		2017/2018	
<u>GPA</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>Grade</u>
1.5	D+	1.75	C-	2.0	C

Specifically, the following changes will take effect this school year, 2016/2017.

1. All students must attain an academic achievement of 1.75 GPA as certified by the homeroom teacher.
2. Any student who receives two or more Fs for quarter grades in English–language arts, math, history, or science, in **7th or 8th grade** may be ineligible for 8th grade graduation activities.

The impetus for change is based on student-need. Our goal is to increase academic rigor and prepare students for the challenges of high school. It's important to note that most other Kindergarten through 8th Grade school districts in Kern County range from 1.5 to 2.0 GPA graduation requirement; our current 1.5 GPA requirement is one of the lowest in the county. Attached is the

complete 8th Grade Graduation Criteria, reflecting the noted changes.

Thank you for your interest in Lakeside School, and feel free to contact me at 831-3503 if you have any questions.

Best Regards,

Mike McGrath
Assistant Superintendent/Principal